

# BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

## 2022/23 MID-SEASON CASTING and TICKET ANNOUNCEMENT

RYAN MCKINNY STARS IN A NEW PRODUCTION OF *BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE*  
FROM DIRECTOR ANNE BOGART

*Premiere production runs March 22-26, 2023*

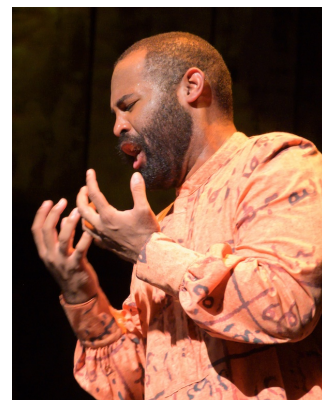
JAMEZ MCCORKLE BRINGS HIS ACCLAIMED LEAD PERFORMANCE  
TO BOSTON IN RHIANNON GIDDENS AND MICHAEL ABEL'S *OMAR*

*Critically lauded BLO co-commission runs May 4-7, 2023*

TICKETS FOR *BLUEBEARD* AND *OMAR*  
ON SALE DEC 1.



BOSTON – Dec. 1 2022 – Lead casting and production announcements for Boston Lyric Opera's spring 2023 performances are being released today, including performers in BLO's premiere production of *Bluebeard's Castle/Four Songs* in March 2023 and the New England premiere of *Rhiannon Giddens* and *Michael Abels'* new opera, *Omar* in May 2023. Public tickets for both performances are on sale December 1.



### BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE/FOUR SONGS

Bass-baritone **Ryan McKinny** (*above, l., photo by Jiyang Chen*) stars as the fictional, fairytale character Bluebeard in **Béla Bartók's** one-act psychological thriller *Bluebeard's Castle* that will be paired with the dramatic song cycle *Four Songs (Vier Lieder)* by composer **Alma Mahler** (wife of Gustav). The highly anticipated production is directed by **Anne Bogart**, whose 2019 version of *The Handmaid's Tale* for BLO received universal acclaim and was one of BLO's best-selling shows. **Naomi Louisa O'Connell** sings the role of Judith, the bride who realizes she's gotten herself into a much different post-nuptial situation than she envisioned. O'Connell also performs Mahler's "Four Songs." BLO Music Director **David Angus** conducts. *Bluebeard's Castle/Four Songs* will play March 22-26, 2023 in an immersive, multi-genre experience that includes a salon-like atmosphere, dance and more installed at The Terminal @ Flynn Cruiseport in South Boston.

A full list of the *Bluebeard's Castle/Four Songs* artistic and production team is available [here](#).

## **OMAR**

Tenor **Jamez McCorkle** (*page 1, r., photo by Leigh Webber*) stars in *Omar*, the title role he premiered at the Spoleto Festival last spring and brought to LA Opera this fall. *Omar* is the story of **Omar Ibn Said**, a prominent scholar of the Islamic faith and many other subjects, who was born to a wealthy West African family. Enslaved in South Carolina at 37 years old, Ibn Said escaped his first place of enslavement and headed to North Carolina where he lived as a slave until his death in 1864. His is the only known autobiographical essay written in Arabic by a Muslim man enslaved in America.

Grammy winner **Rhiannon Giddens** wrote the libretto and composed the music in partnership with film and orchestral composer **Michael Abels** for a production conceived by **Kaneza Schaal**. Classical Voice San Francisco called the production “a profoundly moving spectacle,” and lauded McCorkle’s performance as “a career-defining role.” **Michael Ingram** conducts the BLO Orchestra and Chorus.

Additional casting being announced for *Omar* includes **Cierra Byrd** in the role of Fatima, Omar’s Mother and **Daniel Okulitch** playing the dual roles of enslavers James Owen / Johnson. BLO Emerging Artists (current and alumni) in principal roles include: **Neal Ferreira** as Auctioneer / Taylor; **Emma Sorenson** as Eliza, Little Daughter; **Nicholas LaGesse** as Abdul, Omar’s Brother / Abe; and **Fred C. VanNess Jr.** as Amadou-Renty. **Catherine Daniel** plays Katie Ellen/The Caller. *Omar* plays May 4-7, 2023 at the Emerson Cutler Majestic Theater.

Additional casting for *Omar* and a list of the original production creative team is available [here](#). *Omar* is co-commissioned by Spoleto Festival USA, Carolina Performing Arts, L.A. Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and San Francisco Opera. It is inspired by Dr. Ala Alryyes’s translation of Omar Ibn Said’s autobiography in his book [A Muslim American Slave: The Life of Omar Ibn Said](#).

## **TICKETS ON SALE**

Individual tickets for BLO’s Spring 2023 performances of *Bluebeard’s Castle/Four Songs* and *Omar* are on sale December 1. Two-show subscriptions, also available now, offer a 10% discount over individual tickets.

Subscriptions and individual tickets can be purchased online at [blo.org](http://blo.org), by phone at 617.542.6772 or by email at [boxoffice@blo.org](mailto:boxoffice@blo.org).

# # #

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Advance, long-lead interviews are available with the artists announced above. For additional details or to schedule interviews, contact John Michael Kennedy ([jmk@jmkpr.com](mailto:jmk@jmkpr.com), 781-620-1761) or Jennifer Astin ([ja@jmkpr.com](mailto:ja@jmkpr.com), 323-444-1718).